

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion and in view of the present amendment, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 are amended. Claims 1-7 are pending in the application.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Office Action, at page 2, numbered paragraph 2, claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,333,578 to Nakamura et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed because Nakamura does not teach or suggest:

terminals [of windings] to be selectively connected with one another and selectively connected with two or more power supplies so that different output characteristics are obtained,

as recited in independent claims 1 and 2.

As a non-limiting example, the present invention is a single electric motor that selectively sets connection states of connector units connected to at least two separated windings for each phase of stator-winding. The ends of the windings are able to be selectively connected to one another and to two power supplies in order to form star or delta connections. Therefore, depending on the selection of the power supply and the connection of a specific winding, the output characteristics of an electric motor can be varied.

Nakamura discusses an induction motor that includes three windings for three phases of alternating current. Each of the windings includes winding components having the same number of turns. Nakamura discusses "a switching circuit for selectively switching connection of the winding components to any one of three or four of a Y-connection in which winding components for each of the three phases are connected in series, a Δ -connection in which winding components for each of the three phases are connected in series, a Y-connection in which winding components for each of the three phases are connected in parallel, and a Δ -connection in which winding components for each of the three phases are connected in parallel." Nakamura merely discusses that the windings are connected to an amplifier, but makes no mention of providing a single motor body with at least two winding components for each phase of stator-winding that provides different output characteristics by selectively connecting in Y- or Δ -formations in series or in parallel using one power supply or more than one power supply. With the option of selectively connecting to one of multiple power supplies, the present invention provides the ability to form a motor that has a greater combined torque and speed than an

electric motor that only provides the ability to connection to a single power supply.

Therefore, as Nakamura does not discuss or suggest "terminals [of windings] to be selectively connected with one another and selectively connected with *two or more power supplies* so that different output characteristics are obtained," as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 2, claims 1 and 2 patentably distinguish over the reference relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 recites that the present invention includes "power-supply connection terminals for selectively supplying electric power from two or more power supplies to said separated windings." As discussed above, Nakamura does not discuss or suggest that electric power is selectively supplied from two or more power supplies to the windings. Therefore, claim 3 patentably distinguishes over the reference relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-7 depend either directly or indirectly on independent claim 3 and include all the features of that claim, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the reference relied upon. For example, claim 4 recites that "said connector units include a connector unit for connecting said separate windings for each phase to form a series connection, a parallel connection or a combination thereof, and a connector unit for connecting said separated windings to form a star connection or a delta connection." Therefore, as these claims are dependent on independent claim 3, they are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-3 have been amended. Claims 1-7 are pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

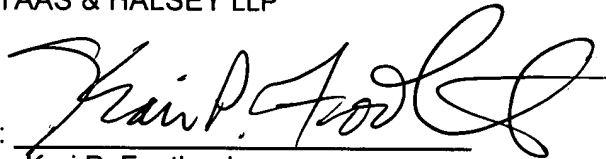
If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

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2/22/06

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